TO AUTHORIZE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL AFRICAN-AMERICAN MUSEUM WITHIN THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION (H.R. 877)

(103–10)

Y 4.P 96/11:103-10

To Authorize the Establishment of t... RING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED THIRD CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

MARCH 25, 1993

Printed for use of the
Committee on Public Works and Transportation

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103D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 877

To authorize the establishment of the National African-American Museum within the Smithsonian Institution.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 4, 1993

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia (for himself, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. BLACKWELL, Mr. BONIOR, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. CLAY, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mr. CLYBURN, Miss COLLINS of Michigan, Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DELLUMS, Mr. DE LUGO, Mr. DIXON, Mr. FILNER, Mr. FINGERHUT, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FORD of Tennessee, Mr. FROST, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HILLIARD, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. JEFFERSON, Ms. E.B. JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. KENNELLY, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. LANCASTER, Mr. MAZZOLI, Ms. MCKINNEY, Mrs. MEEK, Mr. MFUME, Mr. MILLER of California, Mr. MINETA, Mr. MORAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. OWENS, Mr. PARKER, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. REYNOLDS, Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. SISISKY, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. STOKES, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. TUCKER, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. VENTO, Mr. WASHINGTON, Ms. WATERS, Mr. WATT, Mr. WHEAT, Mr. WOOLSEY, Mr. WYNN, Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana, and Mr. RANGEL) introduced the following bill; which was referred jointly to the Committees on House Administration and Public Works and Transportation

---

A BILL

To authorize the establishment of the National African-American Museum within the Smithsonian Institution.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National African American Museum Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

(1) the presentation and preservation of African American life, art, history, and culture within the National Park System and other Federal entities is inadequate;

(2) the inadequate presentation and preservation of African American life, art, history, and culture seriously restricts the ability of the people of the United States, particularly African Americans, to understand themselves and their past;

(3) African American life, art, history, and culture includes the varied experiences of Africans in slavery and freedom and the continued struggles for full recognition of citizenship and treatment with human dignity;

(4) in enacting Public Law 99–511, the Congress encouraged support for the establishment of a commemorative structure within the National Park System, or on other Federal lands, dedicated to the promotion of understanding, knowledge, opportunity, and equality for all people;

(5) the establishment of a national museum and the conducting of interpretive and educational programs, dedicated to the heritage and culture of African Americans, will help to inspire and educate the people of the United States regarding the cultural legacy of African Americans and the contributions made by African Americans to the society of the United States; and

(6) the Smithsonian Institution operates 15 museums and galleries, a zoological park, and 5 major research facilities, none of which is a national institution devoted solely to African American life, art, history, or culture.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Smithsonian Institution a Museum, which shall be known as the "National African American Museum".

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Museum is to provide—

(1) a center for scholarship relating to African American life, art, history, and culture;

(2) a location for permanent and temporary exhibits documenting African American life, art, history, and culture;

(3) a location for the collection and study of artifacts and documents relating to African American life, art, history, and culture;

(4) a location for public education programs relating to African American life, art, history, and culture; and

(5) a location for training of museum professionals and others in the arts, humanities, and sciences regarding museum practices related to African American life, art, history, and culture.

SEC. 4. LOCATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE NATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM.

The Board of Regents is authorized to plan, design, reconstruct, and renovate the Arts and Industries Building of the Smithsonian Institution to house the Museum.

SEC. 5. BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF MUSEUM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Smithsonian Institution the Board of Trustees of the National African American Museum.

(b) COMPOSITION AND APPOINTMENT.—The Board of Trustees shall be composed of 23 members as follows:

(1) The Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

(2) An Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, designated by the Board of Regents.

(3) Twenty-one individuals of diverse disciplines and geographical residence who are committed to the advancement of knowledge of African American art, history, and culture appointed by the Board of Regents, of which 9 members shall be from among individuals nominated by African American museums, historically black colleges and universities, and cultural or other organizations.

(c) TERMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), members of the Board of Trustees shall be appointed for terms of 3 years. Members of the Board of Trustees may be reappointed.

(2) STAGGERED TERMS.—As designated by the Board of Regents at the time of initial appointments under paragraph (3) of subsection (a), the terms of 7 members shall expire at the end of 1 year, the terms of 7 members shall expire at the end of 2 years, and the terms of 7 members shall expire at the end of 3 years.

(d) VACANCIES.—A vacancy on the Board of Trustees shall not affect its powers and shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term for which the predecessor of the

member was appointed shall be appointed for the remainder of the term.

(e) NONCOMPENSATION.—Except as provided in subsection (f), members of the Board of Trustees shall serve without pay.

(f) EXPENSES.—Members of the Board of Trustees shall receive per diem, travel, and transportation expenses for each day, including traveltime, during which they are engaged in the performance of the duties of the Board of Trustees in accordance with section 5703 of title 5, United States Code, with respect to employees serving intermittently in the Government service.

(g) CHAIRPERSON.—The Board of Trustees shall elect a chairperson by a majority vote of the members of the Board of Trustees.

(h) MEETINGS.—The Board of Trustees shall meet at the call of the chairperson or upon the written request of a majority of its members, but shall meet not less than 2 times each year.

(i) QUORUM.—A majority of the Board of Trustees shall constitute a quorum for purposes of conducting business, but a lesser number may receive information on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

(j) VOLUNTARY SERVICES.—Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the chairperson of

the Board of Trustees may accept for the Board of Trustees voluntary services provided by a member of the Board of Trustees.

SEC. 6. DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MUSEUM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Board of Trustees shall—

(1) recommend annual budgets for the Museum;

(2) consistent with the general policy established by the Board of Regents, have the sole authority to—

(A) loan, exchange, sell, or otherwise dispose of any part of the collections of the Museum, but only if the funds generated by such disposition are used for additions to the collections of the Museum or for additions to the endowment of the Museum;

(B) subject to the availability of funds and the provisions of annual budgets of the Museum, purchase, accept, borrow, or otherwise acquire artifacts and other property for addition to the collections of the Museum;

(C) establish policy with respect to the utilization of the collections of the Museum; and

(D) establish policy regarding programming, education, exhibitions, and research, with respect to the life and culture of African Americans, the role of African Americans in the history of the United States, and the contributions of African Americans to society;

(3) consistent with the general policy established by the Board of Regents, have authority to—

(A) provide for restoration, preservation, and maintenance of the collections of the Museum;

(B) solicit funds for the Museum and determine the purposes to which those funds shall be used;

(C) approve expenditures from the endowment of the Museum, or of income generated from the endowment, for any purpose of the Museum; and

(D) consult with, advise, and support the Director in the operation of the Museum;

(4) establish programs in cooperation with other African American museums, historically black colleges and universities, historical societies, educational institutions, cultural and other organizations for the education and promotion of under-

standing regarding African American life, art, history, and culture;

(5) support the efforts of other African American museums, historically black colleges and universities, and cultural and other organizations to educate and promote understanding regarding African American life, art, history, and culture, including—

(A) development of cooperative programs and exhibitions;

(B) identification, management, and care of collections;

(C) participation in the training of museum professionals; and

(D) creating opportunities for—

(i) research fellowships; and

(ii) professional and student internships;

(6) adopt bylaws to carry out the functions of the Board of Trustees; and

(7) report annually to the Board of Regents on the acquisition, disposition, and display of African American objects and artifacts and on other appropriate matters.

SEC. 7. DIRECTOR AND STAFF.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, in consultation with the Board of Trustees, shall appoint a Director who shall manage the Museum.

(b) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN CIVIL SERVICE LAWS.—The Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution may—

(1) appoint the Director and 5 employees under subsection (a), without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service; and

(2) fix the pay of the Director and such 5 employees, without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title, relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates.

SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this Act:

(1) The term "Board of Regents" means the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

(2) The term "Board of Trustees" means the Board of Trustees of the National African American Museum established in section 5(a).

(3) The term "Museum" means the National African American Museum established under section 3(a).

(4) The term "Arts and Industries Building" means the building located on the Mall at 900 Jefferson Drive, S.W. in Washington, the District of Columbia.

SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act $5,000,000 for fiscal year 1994 and such sums as may be necessary for each of the succeeding fiscal years.

○

TO AUTHORIZE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL AFRICAN-AMERICAN MUSEUM WITHIN THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 1993

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS,
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION,
Washington, DC.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:00 a.m., in room 2253, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. James A. Traficant, Jr. (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Mr. TRAFICANT. The Chair will recognize the gentleman from South Carolina, Mr. Clyburn.

Mr. CLYBURN. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, members of the subcommittee, I am pleased and happy to welcome the distinguished guests we have to testify today on the establishment of the National African-American Museum, especially my long time friend and in many ways mentor, Connie Newman. I also understand my colleague the Honorable John Lewis will be here to testify and would extend a warm welcome to him. I thank both of you for your diligence in bringing this process to fruition. It is a project that is long overdue and I am pleased to be a member of the subcommittee which will provide the important legislation necessary for its establishment.

Let me add before going any further that I am proud of the fact that a good friend and constituent of mine, Doctor Leo Twiggs, the executive director of the I.P. Standback Museum and Planetarium at South Brown State University, which is my alma mater, is a member of the project task force which has spent countless numbers of hours planning this project. He strongly endorses this legislation and tells me that their work was done with a great deal of deliberation, that everyone on the committee has had substantial input, and that he is comfortable with their recommendations.

The culture of the African-American is intricately woven into the fabric of American history. This museum will heighten public knowledge and awareness of that fact by recognizing the contributions that African Americans have made in this country and by consolidating in a prominent location the thousands of art treasures collected, both privately and publicly, throughout this country and the world. I am pleased to support the conversion of the Arts and Industries Building for this museum and fully support moving forward quickly with accepting the recommendations of the task force and passage of H.R. 877 as written.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for indulging me so that I might make another appointment. But I want to say to you that I am at your disposal; I am here to help in any way I possibly can with this project. Thank you so much.

Mr. TRAFICANT. I thank the gentleman from South Carolina.

I now recognize the Representative from the District who I am hoping may stay with us, or who may be leaving. I don't know, Representative Norton.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Chairman, I am certainly going to try to stay for an hour. I have a meeting of the Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress that begins at 10:00. I will stay here as long as I can because this matter is of very special interest to this Member of Congress.

I want to thank the Chairman for promptly moving to deal with the unfinished business of the African-American Museum. It is a matter of great importance to the country and to this city. In order not to delay the hearing any longer, I ask unanimous consent that my opening statement be admitted to the record.

Mr. TRAFICANT. So ordered. Thank you.

[Ms. Norton's prepared statement follows:]

STATEMENT OF HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

Chairman Traficant, I appreciate your prompt pursuit of the unfinished business of a National African-American Museum. H.R. 887 authorizes the establishment of a national museum for the preservation and exhibition of African-American life, art, history and culture. I also want to welcome today's witnesses.

The establishment of a National African-American Museum would make a long-lasting contribution to the complete and accurate documentation of American history. History has its own power, and all Americans, including African-Americans, need its truths to challenge hateful assumptions, myths, distortions and negative stereotypes about the role of African-Americans in the progress of this nation. It is not enough to know about the injustices African-Americans endured. We owe it to ourselves to learn about the heroism of Ida B. Wells and the ingenuity to George Washington Carver, and to discover the creative artistry of African-American artists, performers, writers and thinkers. The National African-American Museum will help us use the power of history to construct a better future. H.R. 877 deserves our support.

Mr. TRAFICANT. I would just like to say that we are here meeting this morning to receive testimony on H.R. 877 and it is our intention that in this session of the congress to create, initiate, and to put in motion the museum that is the center of attention here.

I move now by calling our first witness, the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, Mr. Robert McCormick Adams. Welcome, Mr. Adams. Your statement will be placed in the record and we would appreciate if our witnesses today would summarize so that we may have more time to interact with witnesses.

TESTIMONY OF ROBERT McCORMICK ADAMS, SECRETARY, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, ACCOMPANIED BY CLAUDINE K. BROWN, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Mr. ADAMS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is a pleasure to appear before this subcommittee to discuss H.R. 877, legislation to establish a National African American Museum.

Late in the fall of 1989, the Smithsonian initiated a study to explore the prospect of an African American presence on the Mall. The challenge of the study, and of the African American Institu-

tional Study Committee that was appointed to assist with it, was to assess the needs of the field, as well as those of the community, and to make recommendations to the Board of Regents on this endeavor.

At its meeting of May 16, 1991, the Board of Regents accepted the report of the study committee and endorsed in principle its findings that (1) a free-standing African American museum should exist at the Smithsonian; (2) the museum should be housed in the Arts and Industries Building; and (3) the board structure should be modelled on that of the National Museum of the American Indian.

The recommendation of the Arts and Industries as the site for the proposed museum is an especially enlightened one because it provides a prime location on the Mall as well as adjacency, and the prospect of synergy with, the National Museum of African Art. This elegant building is on the national historic register and was the original home of the National Museum, the first Smithsonian Museum. This 177,000 square foot building was designed by Montgomery Meigs and the firm of Cluss & Schulze.

The Arts and Industries Building has been slated for a significant interior upgrade and renovation. As you may be aware, we are limited as to what we can do to the exterior of the building as a result of its historic designation. But I, as well as a number of others, see significant possibilities as to what could be done to configure the interior to upgrade its internal environmental systems and create a world class aesthetic environment. Mr. Chairman, I have been apprised by those working on this project that there are a number of architectural and engineering firms, including minority owned firms, waiting to compete to do the interior rendering of this wonderful building.

Certainly the Institutional Study Committee was mindful of the constraints on current and future Federal budgets. Thus, the ability to establish a museum in an existing structure will mitigate its budgetary impact and allows us to focus on the programming issues that are the rationale for its creation.

In making its recommendations, the African American Institutional Study Committee engaged the viewpoints of many interested parties—22 historians, educators, cultural administrators, business people, and others examined model institutions and communicated with a variety of museums, research centers, and archives about issues, collections, missions, and the evolution of missions over time. They also explored with museum directors how an ethnic heritage museum could be responsive to the target community as well as to the general population.

As the report of the Study Committee noted, there currently exists no single institution devoted to African Americans which collects, analyzes, researches, and organizes exhibitions on a scale and definition comparable to those of major museums devoted to other aspects of American life. Thus, a national African American Museum on the Mall not only would attract visitors from across the country and around the world, but would also be an ideal place to enlarge efforts to dispel stereotypes and illustrate the significant contributions that African Americans have made in building our Nation and enhancing our culture.

Because there are no large museums in the United States which deal with the internal and external diversity of persons of African descent, a specific goal of the African American museum would be to identify those heretofore unrepresented areas of research which are essential to understanding the African American experience. The Study Committee believed that such an effort must begin as soon as possible for there exists a crisis in collecting and preserving significant African American patrimony. Museums throughout the country only recently have acknowledged the need to collect African American materials. As a result, the country has already lost many important African American objects.

Moreover, we run the risk of losing other important documents and objects if we do not begin a concerted effort to alert communities to the value of the many items that have not been recognized as significant. A national museum could support development of an African American collection database and explore the possibility of a facility for shared collections.

As we look to the future of the Smithsonian, we cannot deny the present crisis in collecting and preserving African American cultural patrimony. The Institution's national position places on it an obligation to accept a responsibility in that regard. Many smaller African American museums simply do not have the resources or the access to the resources embodied in the Smithsonian, and most established museums in America are far behind in their protection and collection initiatives in preserving African American heritage. While this, therefore, represents a new initiative by the Smithsonian, it is one long overdue and one that will serve many beyond Washington.

To determine how to proceed in this endeavor, we assessed what collections exist as a departure point for a new museum. A national canvass of collections potentially available to a national African American Museum was conducted over the summer of 1991 and reported to the Regents on September 16, 1991. To date, Smithsonian staff have identified more than 30,000 available objects and many potential donors, including four collectors, each possessing in excess of 3,000 objects. In addition, several of the potential donors and museums that came forward in response to the Smithsonian's survey indicated interest in contributing to this institutional effort through the long-term loan of material.

The Smithsonian is sensitive to concerns expressed by Congress over the years about initiating new projects. With that precise concern in mind, the Board of Regents adopted a recommendation to seek specific authorization for all new programs involving the use of Federal funds. Today's hearing attests to the Institution's adherence to that recommendation.

In closing, in expressing the Smithsonian's appreciation for the subcommittee's support for this important initiative, which will assist significantly in meeting institutional objectives, I would also acknowledge concern about initiatives of recent years that have created substantial budgetary requirements for the Smithsonian. Our planning document, "Choosing the Future", outlines many of these requirements. The Institution will have to carefully examine the additional budgetary requirements of any new initiatives in conjunction with the needs of ongoing programs. The Institution

plans to work even more closely with the subcommittee and the Administration in making decisions about the future requirements within the constraints of our national budget.

Mr. Chairman, I would be glad to receive any questions that you or members of the subcommittee may present. Let me introduce Doctor Claudine Brown who is with me and who was in charge of the African American project.

Mr. TRAFICANT. I thank you for your testimony, Mr. Secretary. If we may, we have a witness who was to appear first. In trying to expedite our program, we would like to excuse you now and recall you at a later time so that we could hear from the sponsor of the bill, the Honorable John Lewis, a friend of ours who is a member of leadership. Mr. Lewis has some other hearings to attend.

So we welcome the distinguished gentleman from Georgia, Representative Lewis.

TESTIMONY OF HON. JOHN LEWIS, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM GEORGIA

Mr. LEWIS. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I regret that I am running a little late, several meetings at the same time. You know how it is, Mr. Chairman and members.

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, I am pleased to be here today to give my support to the creation of a National African-American Museum on the Mall. I am proud to be a sponsor of this bill.

The story of black people in America must be told, and it is not. Without it, American history is incomplete. There is so much to be learned about African American history. There is so much we don't know.

Our history is as old as this country's history and there is much to be learned. Our country must learn about blacks from the 1700s and 1800s, such as Jupiter Hammon and Phillis Wheatley who were known for their poetry. Our history is recent yet little known. Too few people know about Vernon Johns, one of the greatest preachers and scholars of modern times, and the inspiration to Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. and to the civil rights movements.

Our history is rich. It is diverse, and it has spanned the centuries. Our story has not been told, and now we have an opportunity to tell it.

We must move quickly on this bill. We have reached agreement from many diverse groups. Members of the Congressional Black Caucus support this bill; in fact, 38 of the 39 members are original cosponsors. In addition, we have identified an historic beautiful building, the Arts and Industries Building on the Mall, which will house the museum. This building is in an ideal location. We should not, and cannot, let this opportunity pass us by.

Mr. Chairman and members of this subcommittee, I appreciate your support of this bill. I look forward to the passage of this legislation early in the 103rd Congress, and I look forward to visiting the new museum on the Mall very soon.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and members of the subcommittee.

Mr. TRAFICANT. I thank the gentleman for appearing. I understand that you do have another meeting but that you would take

questions from the committee and would respond in writing. Is that correct?

Mr. LEWIS. I would be delighted to do so, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. TRAFICANT. The record will be open and available for you. We appreciate all your efforts and your leadership not only on this issue, but in many other areas of the Congress. You distinguish yourself and you distinguish our effort to enact this legislation to provide this great museum. We are honored to have you here.

Mr. LEWIS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate your support and your friendship over the years.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Appreciate it.

[Mr. Lewis' prepared statement follows:]

STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN LEWIS

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Subcommittee, I am pleased to be here today to give my enthusiastic support to the creation of a National African-American Museum on the Mall. I am proud to be the sponsor of this bill.

The story of black people in America must be told, and it is not. Without it, American history is incomplete.

There is so much to be learned about African-American history. There is so much we don't know.

Our country must learn about blacks from the 1700s and 1800s such as Jupiter Hammon and Phillis Wheatley, who were known for their poetry. Benjamin Banneker, an outstanding mathematician, along with Pierre L'Enfant, designed this city. Dr. Daniel Hale Williams was a pioneering surgeon in the last century. Earnest Everest Just, Percy Julian, and George Washington Carver were all outstanding scientists. It is from Elijah McCoy, a black mechanical engineer, that the expression "The Real McCoy" comes.

We must chronicle our contributions to the nation during Reconstruction. We must spell out the heroics of the Buffalo Soldiers. We must tell of the Harlem Renaissance, of great writers, poets, and photographers like Langston Hughes, James Van Der Zee, and Countee Cullen.

Not enough people know of Vernon Johns, one of the greatest preaches and scholars of modern times, and the inspiration to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and to the civil rights movement. And of course, there are the thousands who dedicated—and some who gave—their lives as part of the nonviolent revolution of the 60s. They have inspired people and movements all over the world.

I could go on and on. Our history is rich, and our story has not been told. And now we have an opportunity to tell it.

We must move quickly on this bill. We have reached agreement from diverse groups. Members of the Congressional Black Caucus support this bill; in fact, 38 out of the 39 Members are original cosponsors. In addition, we have identified a historic, beautiful building, the Arts and Industries Building, on the Mall, which will house the Museum. We should not and cannot let this opportunity pass by.

Mr. Chairman, I urge your support for this bill. I look forward to passage of this legislation early in the 103rd Congress, and I look forward to visiting the new Museum soon.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. TRAFICANT. With that, I would like to recall the Secretary. While we do that, I would ask the Vice Chairman from Tennessee if he would like to make a statement.

Mr. DUNCAN. I have no statement, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank my good friend Mr. Lewis for coming to testify and other witnesses, and we will proceed with the hearing so we can move on.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Thank you. I will defer my opening questions to the Representative from the District of Columbia if she has any questions of the Secretary.

Ms. NORTON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Adams, could you explain how you will go about assembling a collection and how quickly a collection could be assembled after an appropriation.

Mr. ADAMS. Ms. Norton, I think I should turn that question over to Doctor Brown who has, in fact, been the one who has been handling specifically the question of possible collections.

Ms. BROWN. Thank you. Since 1991, my staff and myself have been going around the country looking at collections and meeting with private collectors. We have to date met over 400 private collectors and identified more than 30,000 objects that might come to the museum. We are very cognizant of the impact an initiative of this size and we are really hopeful that we can encourage people to donate objects for the first few years of this museum. We would like to do that because we don't want to inflate the marketplace and we don't want to make it difficult for other museums to acquire similar materials.

Ms. NORTON. Would most of those whom you have been speaking to donate objects so that the museum would not have to expend funds in order to acquire them?

Ms. BROWN. Most museums around the country have very small amounts of money for collections acquisitions. So our behavior is pretty much in sync with the rest of the field. There are people who have been collecting material for some time who are certainly interested in selling it. For some, it is a nest egg. We would be very reluctant to start purchasing at an early point because, again, we don't want to make it difficult for ourselves as well as for others. We are also interested in long-term loans.

One of our primary concerns is knowing where the material is and knowing that it is being conserved, even if a family takes on the responsibility of conserving and preserving the material.

Ms. NORTON. We have an African American museum in this city that we are very proud of, the Anacostia museum and, of course, the Smithsonian has a very direct relationship to the Anacostia museum. I wonder if you could explain how the new museum would relate to the existing African American museum.

Ms. BROWN. The Anacostia museum has a strong and stellar history as being one of the first community museums in this country. It was designed in response to the needs of a very particularized community, which was the African American community of Anacostia. In its early years, it did some incredibly pathbreaking exhibitions that dealt with urban issues as well as African American family life and social history. Their mission is very specific; they will continue to deal with the lives of African Americans in Washington, D.C. and what they have called the "upper South", which are those States from where most Washington, D.C., citizens have migrated from. They will also continue to do urban issues.

The new museum, on the other hand, will have a much broader focus. It will look at diversity within the African American community. African Americans living in California have very different cultures from those living in Tennessee or those living in Ohio. We will also be looking at African Americans as a part of a world community, and by that I mean we will be exploring how we fit within the diaspora community. So we will be looking at comparatively,

African Americans here, but also persons of African descent in Canada, in Brazil, and will be looking at issues of commonality.

Ms. NORTON. One final question, Mr. Chairman. I would like to get some idea of what it will really take to renovate this building for the purpose that we are considering. For example, there is an asbestos problem in the building now. Do you anticipate that the building could be renovated easily; would it be a very difficult renovation; what would you do about asbestos once you begin the process of renovating? I would like some understanding of whether we're talking about a major operation that will go on for some time, or whether the building is in a state such that renovation could be quickly done and, after an appropriation, a start-up.

Mr. ADAMS. Ms. Norton, I would answer that in two parts I think. The first and most general answer is that the planning process is only now beginning and it is premature to provide any great detail on the costs. But as I indicated in my testimony, we have a problem of renovation that we have been planning to address in that building in any case. So there would be costs of renovation with regard to issues like asbestos quite irrespective of whether we were to move ahead on this authorization.

I think it really is premature to set a number on what would be the whole cost of renovation would be.

Ms. NORTON. I haven't asked about the cost. That's an issue I really don't want to get into. [Laughter.]

Ms. NORTON. I am asking a question about the feasibility of converting this building from the purpose for which it is now used to a museum. Is this a process that is easily done, is the museum as presently configured difficult to turn into the kind of museum we are seeking to establish here, and, if so, what would it take?

Mr. ADAMS. I think the general reaction of those in the Smithsonian who have looked at this in some detail is that it is a glorious museum space, that it offers wonderful possibilities. It is, of course, functioning as a museum now. One of the steps that we will have to take is to arrange to take out the material that is there, which has been there since 1976. But, no, it is a splendid space that obviously will need considerable reconstruction as we take account of the atmospheric control and other issues of that kind. But, no, I think the space will make an exceedingly attractive museum space and I believe that is the general consensus of those who have looked at it.

Ms. NORTON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Thank you.

The gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. DUNCAN. Just very briefly, Mr. Adams. This is a very worthwhile goal but I guess I am usually the one on the subcommittee to ask about the cost. Everyone is being asked today, everyone is being asked, to hold down costs or conserve or save as much as possible. How much do you estimate is going to be the first year cost of this project, and what do you see as the costs in the years ahead. Do you expect all of that to come from us here in the Congress or do you intend to make some efforts to raise at least a portion of these funds privately?

Mr. ADAMS. Let me say, Mr. Duncan, first with regard to the immediately anticipated cost, we have no provision in any pending

budget for 1993 or 1994 for additional funds to be made available for this project. We propose to handle that through internal reprogramming within Smithsonian budgets. At the same time, we propose to launch a fundraising drive in the private sector in order to make more funds available than we can obtain from simple internal reprogramming.

As for what might be required in fiscal year 1995 and years beyond, I don't think I want to predict the requirements then; first, because we need to see what the success of our own fundraising will bring; and, second, because in those out years I think we need to have the results of the planning effort that will be undertaken beginning very soon.

Mr. DUNCAN. The bill would authorize appropriations of $5 million.

Mr. ADAMS. That's right, but we have no immediate plan to seek an appropriation of any of that.

Mr. DUNCAN. You mention in your testimony the sum of $475,000 for fiscal year 1994 for five full time equivalents. Are you talking about that coming from your—

Mr. ADAMS. From our existing budget.

Mr. DUNCAN. Okay. Well, thank you very much.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Secretary, does this legislation preclude the possibility that sometime in the future this museum could be located in its own free standing facility on the Mall unattached from the Smithsonian?

Mr. ADAMS. Certainly not, Mr. Chairman. I think that nothing in the museum business can be regarded as for all time. This was, as I said, the U.S. National Museum, it is now called the Arts and Industries Building with a quite different kind of collection in it. I should remind the committee that the building that now houses the National Museum of American History was originally the Museum of History and Technology. Focuses change over time, opportunities change, and I think that would certainly apply in this case also.

Mr. TRAFICANT. I want to thank you and Doctor Brown for your testimony and I appreciate your willingness to support and go forward.

Our next witness Mr. Reginald W. Griffith, executive director of National Capital Planning Commission is recovering from surgery and is unable to be here today. He did submit a statement though, and I ask unanimous consent to insert in the record the statement of Reginald Griffith. Any objection?

[No response.]

Mr. TRAFICANT. Without objection, so ordered.

[Mr. Griffith's prepared statement follows:]

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Appointed by the President of the United States
Glen T. Urquhart
CHAIRMAN

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Dr. Thaddeus Garrett, Jr.

Appointed by the Mayor of the District of Columbia
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United States Senate
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U.S. House of Representatives
Honorable Fortney H. Stark

Mayor, District of Columbia
Honorable Sharon Pratt Kelly

Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia
Honorable John Wilson

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Reginald W. Griffith

IN REPLY REFER TO:
NCPC File Nos. 1200 & 0324

MAR 25 1993

Honorable James A. Traficant, Jr.
Chairman
Subcommittee on Public Buildings and Grounds
Committee on Public Works and Transportation
Suite 2185 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In response to your invitation of March 16, 1993, for our Executive Director, Mr. Reginald W. Griffith, to present testimony on H.R. 877, a bill to authorize establishment of the National African-American Museum within the Smithsonian Institution, we regret to inform you that Mr. Griffith is recovering from surgery and therefore unable to appear at the Subcommittee hearing scheduled for Thursday, March 25, 1993. In lieu of his personal testimony, we are submitting herewith the position of our Commission on the establishment of a National African-American Museum. Since the text of H.R. 877 has not changed since Mr. Griffith testified on H.R. 1246 on September 15, 1992, the Commission's position has not changed. As discussed with your staff, we now expect Mr. Griffith to return on Monday, March 29, 1993. At that time, he would be pleased to provide any additional information you may require.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Gresham
Assistant Executive Director for Operations

Enclosure

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION
801 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W., SUITE 301
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20576

STATEMENT OF

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION

before the

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION

UNITED STATED HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

on H.R. 877

NATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM ACT

March 25, 1993

The Commission welcomes this opportunity to present our views on H.R. 877 to establish a National African-American Museum.

The National Capital Planning Commission, a Federal agency, is mandated by the National Capital Planning Act to serve as the central planning agency for the Federal Government in the Nation's Capital. In addition to providing long-range planning for the Federal establishment, the Commission comments and advises upon master plans and individual development proposals throughout the National Capital Region and approves plans for Federal public buildings in the District of Columbia.

The Commission supports the concept of a National African-American Museum in the Nation's Capital to honor significant contributions of African-American people

and customs to the American heritage, as well as to centralize the location and display of important cultural artifacts. This needs, of course, to be done in a context which provides for other museums appropriately recognizing the contributions, cultural heritages, and origins of all Americans. It must also contemplate all of the other future memorial, monumental, and museum demands which will be placed upon the Monumental Core of our Nation's Capital.

Recognizing the need to accommodate such long-term museum space demands, the Commission has engaged in preparation of a plan for the Monumental Core, which covers not only the historic Mall, including its extension to the Lincoln Memorial, but also adjacent areas north and south of Constitution and Independence Avenues, along with Arlington National Cemetery and the Pentagon area across the river. We anticipate that a draft of the Plan will be available for public comment in approximately one year, and that the sites for all proposed newly constructed museums, memorials, etc. should be considered after that time.

We believe that the historic Mall should continue to be devoted exclusively to museum and cultural uses. In the extended Mall and adjacent areas, we are examining several options, including conversion of Federal buildings, to museum use and new buildings. There may also be opportunities for additions to or rehabilitation of existing museum buildings to house additional activities. We are also looking at the possibilities of creating an entirely new museum building complex apart from the historic Mall to satisfy future demands.

The Commission has previously approved the conversion of the Arts and Industries Museum building as a home for the National African-American Museum as part of its Federal Capital Improvement Program actions.

The beauty of our Nation's Capital is a legacy of major planning accomplishments. The L'Enfant Plan of 1791 provided a basic physical framework for the new Federal city that has endured for two centuries. In 1901, the McMillan Senate Park Commission produced a plan that restored and extended the L'Enfant Plan concepts. Today's image of the Nation's Capital is of dramatic vistas, expansive landscaped areas, and monumental buildings developed in implementation of the McMillan Plan. That plan, including development of the historic Mall proper, will be largely fulfilled when the last remaining Mall site at 4th Street and Maryland Avenue is developed for the Museum of the American Indian. Therefore, appropriate sites for new museum buildings on the historic Mall, between 3rd and 14th Streets, are simply not available.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify about this proposed legislation.

Our next witness will be Mr. Thomas Mack, chairman, National Council for Education and Economic Development. I would ask our two remaining witnesses we have to summarize as much as possible their testimony.

Mr. Mack, we welcome you to the committee.

TESTIMONY OF THOMAS MACK, CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mr. MACK. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before this subcommittee and I will summarize my statement.

On September the 15th, we were privileged to participate in hearings before the Subcommittee on Public Buildings and Grounds on H.R. 1246 and it was unanimously passed. Both the subcommittee and the full committee on Public Works and Transportation passed that bill unanimously. The Black Caucus passed a resolution in support of H.R. 1246.

The difference between that bill and the one on which the subcommittee is currently hearing testimony on is that H.R. 1246, as passed by the subcommittee and the full committee, called for African American control of an African American museum.

And with reference to the question whether the African American museum should be a new or old building, we were encouraged to note that the testimony of Mr. Reginald Griffith, executive director of the Capital Planning Commission, stated in a memo, "It is definitely my opinion that a new structure is far superior to the renovation of an existing structure."

We respectfully suggest that this subcommittee shares an awesome role and responsibility in helping to determine the quality of the structure for an African American museum and who rightfully should control it. The answer to these important questions shall inevitably send a message to the country and the world about the attitude of Congress about African Americans.

H.R. 847 calls for Smithsonian control of the museum. Elsewhere in my testimony, we point out that Smithsonian Institution has relinquished its right of control through nearly a century-and-a-half of intentional neglect of African American history. It cannot reclaim that responsibility now by simply saying: trust us, we are now ready to properly serve.

Serious questions remain about the issue of an African American museum. A Washington Post editorial, Urban League, and others—and I have a list—called for public hearings with widespread participation. We believe that there is time to accomplish this if this subcommittee and others who may be holding hearings with reference to this matter should desire to do so. For example, the National Urban League has expressed interest, the King Center, NAACP, Legal Defense Fund, National Urban Coalition, Gordon Hatcher Associates, the National Council of Negro Women. I spoke with Doctor Dorothy Height yesterday about this matter and she expressed her full support of widespread participation in this process and, at the same time of course, reiterated her support for an African American museum which is controlled by African Americans.

I might point out that under African American control, Smithsonian's responsibility to participate and support the effort will not be relieved. It is charged by Congress, in addition to its moral responsibility, to fairly and equitably represent all ethnic groups, a responsibility that the Smithsonian Institution itself has acknowledged. It has not lived up to that responsibility.

The Black Leadership Forum, which is comprised of the major African American civil rights organizations, among others, passed a resolution in support of an African American museum controlled by African Americans.

Mr. Chairman, that is a summary.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Thank you, Mr. Mack.

The gentleman from Tennessee?

Mr. DUNCAN. I have no questions at this time, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank Mr. Mack for coming here today. I appreciate your testimony very much.

Mr. TRAFICANT. The gentlewoman from the Capital.

Ms. NORTON. I want to thank Mr. Mack for his testimony and for his persistence on this effort which long preceded me and continues to this very day. If we keep our feet to the fire, we may even get there. Thank you for your testimony.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Mack, on page one of your testimony you mention the Urban League. Are you representing the views of the Urban League here today in testifying?

Mr. MACK. Yes, sir.

Mr. TRAFICANT. On page five of your testimony, there is an impressive list of African American organizations who are supporting the establishment of a national museum. Am I correct in saying, pursuant to your submitted testimony, that they do not, in fact, support a museum bill unless there is (1) a new building, and (2) Smithsonian Institution has no management responsibility?

Mr. MACK. This group did not say that. On September the 27th, the Black Leadership Forum was meeting at the headquarters of Doctor Height's organization, the National Council for Negro Women. These are the groups that were represented there, these are the groups that comprise the Forum. They asked me for a report on the African American museum—and incidently, John Jacob, President and CEO of the National Urban League was Chairman of the Forum at that time and he obviously supported it. He scheduled me to make a presentation at that meeting of the Black Leadership Forum. I explained to the Forum, the position of the National Council for Education and Economic Development to which I have testified. Further, that the question of control relates to power, a word that hasn't been used to my knowledge very much here, and that African Americans have earned the right to represent their ancestors in research, codifying and disseminating information about African Americans. They agreed with that discussion.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Mack, we agree with that as well. But specifically, I would like to establish for the record, there are a number of organizations, highly credible, with fine reputations, who have specific concerns about the construct of this enabling legislation. In that regard specifically, are they opposed to an African

American museum if it is controlled or under the umbrella of the Smithsonian?

Mr. MACK. I can't answer that question for these organizations. I can for the National Council, to which some of them belong, and I certainly can for the National Urban League and the National Council of Negro Women.

Mr. TRAFICANT. The National Urban League is opposed to an African American museum if it is under the umbrella of the Smithsonian? Is that your testimony?

Mr. MACK. No. I want to state it accurately. The National Urban League is opposed to Smithsonian control, as am I and as I shall always be.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Could you make available that documentation in any form that you have it and present it to the committee. I ask unanimous consent that the committee minutes be left open for such an insertion. Without objection, so ordered.

Any other questions of Mr. Mack?

[No response.]

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Mack, I want to thank you for coming here. I am sure that everybody here wants to see a museum go forward. I appreciate the fact that you have come in to discuss the salient points of your position. We're proud to give you that opportunity. Thank you for your testimony.

Mr. MACK. Thank you.

Mr. TRAFICANT. The next witness is the distinguished president of the African American Museums Association, Dr. John E. Fleming.

Dr. Fleming, I would ask also if you could summarize your testimony to give us more of a chance to interact with you.

TESTIMONY OF JOHN E. FLEMING, PH.D, PRESIDENT, AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION

Dr. FLEMING. Mr. Chairman, the testimony as written is a summary. I am not sure that I can summarize it any more, but I will do my best.

Mr. Chairman, members of the Subcommittee on Public Buildings and Grounds, I am John Fleming, President of the African American Museums Association and Director of the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center at Wilberforce, Ohio, under the auspices of the Ohio Historical Society. I am pleased to present the views of the African American Museums Association on H.R. 877, a bill to authorize the establishment of the National African American Museum within the Smithsonian Institution.

As the professional organization of the African American museum community, we support the creation of a National African American Museum. On September 15, 1992, I offered testimony on behalf of the AAMA on a similar bill, H.R. 1246, again to establish a National African American Museum within the Smithsonian Institution. I would like to summarize for the record the points made in that testimony.

We endorsed the following elements of that bill: (1) the establishment of an independent board of trustees for the National African American Museum within the structure of the Smithsonian Institution with AAMA members and representatives of other African

American cultural institutions and organizations forming a majority on that Board; (2) the designating and setting aside of space on the Mall for the construction of a new museum dedicated to African American history and culture. However, the AAMA accepted the rationale for the temporary use of the Arts and Industries Building until such time as a new facility could be constructed; and (3) the establishment of a set-aside fund within the budget of the new museum to provide direct funding of existing African American museums nationwide.

While not part of H.R. 1246, we also sought support for and referred to Congressman Louis Stokes' bill, H.R. 1960, to establish a national training center for African American museum professionals at Wilberforce, Ohio. Having carefully thought through these recommendations over the past six months, we reaffirm our position. I would now like to raise several points for your consideration as you deliberate on the merits of H.R. 877.

We believe that the majority of the national museum staff should be African Americans. Having said this raises the serious issue of where these professionals are to be found. While the Smithsonian constituent institutions have made some progress recently in recruiting and training professionals, this advancement will be jeopardized if their staffs are raided to fill positions in the new museum. Likewise, the larger African American museums across the Nation have invested major resources in training administrators, curators, registrars, and museum educators and would be significantly disadvantaged if these employees leave their institutions. With so few trained professionals in the field, some of our largest museums in California, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Alabama are currently competing to hire new museum directors.

The vital importance of cultural diversity, endorsed by the American Association of Museums, has created a demand by the Nation's 10,000 museums for black professionals, who represent one-half of 1 percent of the Nation's 90,000 museum professionals. Therefore, we strongly endorse the establishment of the national training center for minority museum, archives, and historic preservation professionals, and ask that you not only support the bill to establish the training center, but you also reference in H.R. 877 the critical need to collaborate on training minorities for the field.

Each year, millions of school children and tourists visit our Nation's capital and its museums. It is important that these individuals understand that African Americans played a central role in the development of this Nation. The establishment of an African American museum in the Arts and Industries Building would provide an immediate presence within the Smithsonian. However, the AAMA urges that you consider and designate space for the development of a new African American museum on the Mall. This will send a clear message to our citizens that our national Government does not view its largest minority as second-class citizens. We ask that you follow the example of California and Ohio and cities such as Detroit, Philadelphia, Dallas, and Birmingham in committing resources for a new facility.

The AAMA is unwilling to give up completely our control of our patrimony and the interpretation of our history and culture to an institution whose overall track record of cultural inclusion is ques-

tionable. While Secretary Robert Adams has brought cultural sensitivity to the Smithsonian, which we applaud, we believe that the museum's board should have the independence to promote an interpretive program that accurately reflects the African American heritage. The AAMA believes that it is imperative to include representatives from our African American museums and other cultural institutions as a majority on the national museum's board of trustees.

Throughout the history of the African American Museums Association, we have been asked to endorse and support the authorization or reauthorization of such cultural agencies as the National Endowments for the Humanities and Arts and the Institute for Museum Services. While we have given our unconditional support, these agencies have a dismal record in providing financial support for African American museums. Once again, we find ourselves before a congressional committee whose actions could result in the allocation of millions of Federal dollars. From our perspective, African American museums are being asked to support legislation which will involve the transfer of millions of dollars to an institution that has reluctantly accepted a mission which our institutions have traditionally carried virtually unassisted by Federal support.

Therefore, the AAMA views H.R. 877 as a unique opportunity for the Federal Government not only to create a new institution within the Smithsonian, but also to provide greatly needed Federal support for our other African American museums which have remained true to their mission as keepers of culture, however isolated from mainstream American institutions of cultural preservation.

Thus, within the conditions I have outlined above, the AAMA endorses H.R. 877.

Thank you very much.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Thank you, Dr. Fleming.

Mr. Duncan.

Mr. DUNCAN. Thank you, Doctor Fleming, for coming to testify. I served for several years, and my wife followed me, on the board of directors of the Beck Cultural Exchange Center in Knoxville, Tennessee, which is a museum of African American history. I don't know whether you are familiar with it, but we are very proud of that institution in Knoxville.

Staff tells me that there are approximately 120 African American museums in the country today. Is that correct?

Dr. FLEMING. Yes.

Mr. DUNCAN. What is a typical yearly budget for one of those institutions, just a rough guess on average?

Dr. FLEMING. I would say somewhere in the neighborhood of $50,000 to $75,000 a year.

Mr. DUNCAN. So they are all very low budget operations then?

Dr. FLEMING. The vast majority are very low budget operations.

Mr. DUNCAN. I apologize, but I am not really familiar with your institution. Is your museum supported by the Ohio Historical Society?

Dr. FLEMING. We are at this time part of the Ohio Historical Society. We have a line item in the State of Ohio's budget which is approximately $1 million per year.

Mr. DUNCAN. I assume then that yours is one of the better funded African American museums in the country.

Dr. FLEMING. Yes. I would say that there are ten or twelve major African American museums with budgets of $1 million or more.

Mr. DUNCAN. All right. Well, thank you very much.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Thank you, Mr. Duncan.

Ms. Norton.

Ms. NORTON. Thank you very much, Doctor Fleming, for your testimony offered now for the umpteenth time. But that is what getting something through the Congress is all about-persistence.

Let me ask you a question about set-aside funding for existing museums and how you anticipate that funding being used.

Dr. FLEMING. The major problem of these small museums is that they lack operating funds. They have not been successful in getting grants from the cultural agencies, NEH, NEA, and IMS. We envision that an appropriation would go through the Smithsonian to the National African American Museum to be distributed by the board of trustees on a competitive basis to African American museums for operating support.

Ms. NORTON. On a competitive basis of operating support? Normally when funds are distributed on a competitive basis, it is because of something that they want to do and they show they can do better than the next person or the next organization. I am trying to figure out how you envision the funds to be used, how you envision that the Smithsonian would go about distributing such funds.

Dr. FLEMING. We see an example in IMS through the General Operating Support Grant Program that is currently in existence. The problem with that program is that the requirements are so rigorous and so time consuming that the small museums don't have the expertise or the staff to put together those major proposals.

Ms. NORTON. Do you support this bill even if Congress were to appropriate funds for the museum without set-aside funding? I am compelled to ask that question. We are in the middle of a tremendous period of cuts. Even if this committee does as I anticipate it will and marks up this bill, the biggest hurdle is yet to come, and that is whether or not the appropriations committee would indeed appropriate any funds for this purpose. If it did, then, of course, they would look again at the purposes and would look at our recommendation. Of course, we do not control the appropriation process at all. No one should confuse what happens here with the appropriations process since the appropriation process could do anything, including give more money. There may be somebody in the appropriation process that thinks very highly of this idea, as we do, for example. I have seen that happen; I have seen appropriators move forward in a particularly favorable way. But if they didn't, what would be your position on the museum?

Dr. FLEMING. Looking at the history of the African American museum movement, I cannot in good conscious oppose the development of any black museum because the needs are so great.

Ms. NORTON. I appreciate that testimony very much. I think it is very principled testimony and I think that when the appropriators see it, they will appreciate it. Thank you.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Fleming, I appreciate your testimony here and your leadership, and the willingness to take the time to go through a process that must be marked by persistence, as Ms. Norton talked about. Persistence to get anything through this big sandbox with a game for everybody called the Congress.

I have some specific questions relative to your organization, which evidently has been a leader, and to Smithsonian. Were you at any time contacted by the Smithsonian task force or any mechanism they had created when they did their national survey relative to this museum?

Dr. FLEMING. The previous president of the African American Museums Association was invited to participate in that process. I was invited before becoming president to submit a written statement to the committee which I did not do at the time.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Any reason why you did not submit that or participate at that time?

Dr. FLEMING. There appeared to have been a conflict of interests. We had the members of the Ohio congressional delegation pushing for the development of the national museum at Wilberforce; there seems to have been some conflict as to whether or not the museum at Wilberforce would become the national museum or whether there would be a national museum on the Mall here in Washington.

The conflict was resolved in discussing this matter with Congressman Stokes who proposed establishing the national training center, fulfilling a need of the profession at Wilberforce, and we now assume our national commitment to be one of training minorities for the profession.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Dr. Fleming, if we were to go forward with this museum, and I predict that we will, and this museum becomes a reality, I think it is very important that the contributing professionals represented by yourself and others are going to have to have a marriage here, maybe a shotgun wedding, but a marriage with the Smithsonian. It is evident that in order for us to perhaps create this museum that we will go the most practical way, we'll try and safeguard interests, but in the most practical way to effect such a great national cultural treasure. I think that your testimony, unless I am wrong, signifies the fact that although you may not like the fumes on the bus, you are willing to ride that bus to get this museum in an appropriate setting enacted into law. Is that correct?

Dr. FLEMING. Yes.

Mr. TRAFICANT. I thank you for your testimony. I thank all those people who have testified here today. Our subcommittee will be digesting and distilling this testimony, looking at all the variables relative to this piece of legislation. And I would hope that we can move some vehicle forward in an expeditious manner.

I again ask unanimous consent that the statement of Mr. Griffith be incorporated into the record. Without objection, so ordered.

With that, this hearing is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 9:55 a.m., the committee was adjourned, to reconvene at the call of the Chair.]

PREPARED STATEMENTS SUBMITTED BY WITNESSES

STATEMENT

BY

ROBERT McC. ADAMS

SECRETARY

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON, D.C.

MARCH 25, 1993

Good morning, Mr. Chairman.

It is a pleasure to appear before the subcommittee this morning to discuss H.R. 877, legislation to establish a National African American Museum.

Late in the Fall of 1989, the Smithsonian initiated a study to explore the prospect of an African American presence on the Mall. The challenge of the study, and of the African American Institutional Study Committee appointed to assist with it, was to assess the needs of the field, as well as those of the community, and to make recommendations to the Board of Regents on this endeavor.

At its meeting on May 16, 1991, the Board of Regents accepted the report of the Study Committee and endorsed in principle its findings that (1) a free-standing African American museum should exist at the Smithsonian; (2) the museum should be housed in the Arts and Industries Building; and (3) the board structure should be modelled on that of the National Museum of the American Indian.

The recommendation of the Arts and Industries Building as the site for the proposed museum is an especially enlightened one because it provides a prime location on the Mall, as well as adjacency to - and the prospect of synergy with - the National Museum of African Art. This elegant building is on the national historic register and was the original home to the National Museum, the first Smithsonian Museum. This 177,000 square foot building was designed by Montgomery Meigs and the firm of Cluss

and Shulze.

The Arts and Industries building has been slated for a significant interior upgrade and renovation. As you may be aware we are limited as to what we can do to the exterior of the building as a result of its historic designation, but, I as well as a number of others see significant possibilities as to what could be done to configure the interior to upgrade its internal environmental systems and create a world class aesthetic environment. Mr. Chairman, I have been apprised by those working on this project that there are a number of architectural and engineering firms, including minority owned firms, waiting to compete to do the interior renderings of this wonderful building.

Certainly the Institutional Study Committee was mindful of the constraints on current and future federal budgets. Thus, the ability to establish a museum in an existing structure will mitigate its budgetary impact and allow us to focus on the programming issues that are the rationale for its creation.

In making its recommendations, the African American Institutional Study Committee engaged the viewpoints of many interested parties: twenty-two historians, educators, cultural administrators, business people, and others examined model institutions and communicated with a variety of museums, research centers, and archives about issues, collections, missions, and the evolution of missions over time. They also explored with museum directors how an ethnic heritage museum could be

responsive to the target community, as well as to the general population.

As the report of the Study Committee noted, there currently exists no single institution devoted to African Americans which collects, analyzes, researches, and organizes exhibitions on a scale and definition comparable to those of major museums devoted to other aspects of American life. Thus, a national African American museum on the Mall not only would attract visitors from across the country and around the world, but also would be an ideal place to enlarge efforts to dispel stereotypes and to illustrate the significant contributions that African Americans have made in building our nation and enhancing our culture.

Because there are no curatorial departments in the United States which deal exclusively with the historical portrayal of African Americans, a specific goal of the African American museum would be to identify those areas of research which are essential to understanding the African American experience. The Study Committee believed that such an effort must begin as soon as possible for there exists a crisis in collecting and preserving significant African American patrimony. Museums throughout the country only recently have acknowledged the need to collect African American material. As a result, the country has already lost many important African American objects.

Moreover, we run the risk of losing other important documents and objects if we do not begin a concerted effort to alert communities to the value of many items that have not been

recognized as significant. A national museum could support the development of an African American Collections Database and explore the possibility of a facility for shared collections.

In expressing their readiness to support the establishment of a national African American museum on the Mall, the Regents also stated that, consistent with Smithsonian policies in establishing such museums, a necessary first step would be the identification of core collections that would comprise its holdings. The Regents encouraged the establishment of a commission to study this first step.

As we look to the future of the Smithsonian, we cannot deny the present crisis in collecting and preserving African American cultural patrimony. The Institution's national position places on it an obligation to accept a responsibility in that regard. Many smaller African American museums simply do not have the resources or access to the resources embodied in the Smithsonian, and most established museums in America are far behind in their protection and collection initiatives in preserving African American heritage. While this, therefore, represents a new initiative by the Smithsonian, it is one long overdue and one that will serve many beyond Washington.

To determine how to proceed in this endeavor, we assessed what collections exist as a departure point for a new museum. A nationwide canvass of collections potentially available to a national African American museum was conducted over the summer of

1991 and reported to the Regents on September 16, 1991. To date, Smithsonian staff has identified more than 30,000 available objects and many potential donors, including four collectors, each possessing in excess of 5,000 objects. In addition, several of the potential donors and museums that came forward in response to the Smithsonian's survey indicated interest in contributing to this Institutional effort through the long-term loan of material.

Following this presentation, the Regents adopted a motion again endorsing the establishment of a national African American museum within the Smithsonian and encouraging the Secretary to draft legislation to that effect, consistent with the Regents' earlier considerations. After cordial and comprehensive discussions that included the staffs of Senator Paul Simon and the prime sponsor of this effort in the House of Representatives, the Honorable John Lewis, agreement was reached on a proposed amendment in the nature of a substitute and it was reported by this subcommittee last year. At their meeting on February 3, 1992, the Regents endorsed the proposed amendment and asked their Congressional Members to support such legislation.

The Smithsonian is sensitive to concerns expressed by Congress over the years about initiating new projects. With that precise concern in mind, the Board of Regents adopted a recommendation to seek specific authorization for all new programs involving the use of Federal funds. Today's hearing attests to the Institution's adherence to that recommendation.

The proposed amendment makes certain findings and

establishes the National African American Museum within the Smithsonian Institution. The purpose of the museum is to provide a center for scholarship and a place for exhibitions, collections of artifacts and documents, educational programs, and training of museum professionals in the areas of African American life, art, history, and culture. The Board of Regents is authorized under Section 4 to plan, design, reconstruct, and renovate the Arts and Industries Building in order to house the museum.

Organized with a structure similar to the Board of the National Museum of the American Indian, the Board of Trustees of the museum established under Section 5 would consist of 23 members, including the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, an Assistant Secretary designated by the Regents, and 21 other members who would represent a diversity of disciplines and geographic origins. Nine would be drawn from individuals nominated by African American museums, historically black colleges and universities, and cultural or other organizations. Terms of office for these 21 members would be for three years, with terms staggered among one-third of its members for one year, one-third for two years, and one-third for three years at the time of initial appointment. Vacancies would be handled as an original appointment for the remainder of the vacated term. Members would be compensated for per diem, travel, and transportation expenses incidental to fulfilling their duties on the Board according to statutorily determined rates. Provisions in this section also cover the convocation and running of

meetings.

Section 6 addresses the duties of the Board of Trustees, including the responsibility for recommending annual budgets for the Museum and, under the policies established by the Board of Regents, sole authority for loans, acquisitions, and deaccessions. The Trustees also would establish policy governing collections utilization, programming, education, exhibitions, and research. Consistent with general policy of the Board of Regents, they would have authority to provide for the restoration, preservation, and maintenance of the collections of the Museum; solicit funds and determine appropriate uses of such funds; approve expenditures from the endowment and earned income; and consult with the museum director on the operation of the museum.

The museum's Board of Trustees may establish cooperative programs with and support the efforts of other African American museums, historically black colleges and universities, historical societies, educational institutions, and cultural and other organizations to educate and promote understanding regarding African American life, art, history, and culture. These efforts may include cooperative programs and exhibitions, collections management, and fellowships for professional museum training. The Board of Trustees is to adopt bylaws to carry out these functions and must report annually to the Board of Regents on acquisition, disposition, and display of African American objects and artifacts, as well as on other appropriate matters.

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The Secretary of the Smithsonian, under Section 8 of the proposed new language, is provided authority to appoint a director of the museum in consultation with the Board of Trustees.

Section 9 would authorize appropriations of $5 million for FY 1994 and such sums as may be necessary for each of the succeeding fiscal years. We would note that the Smithsonian is requesting $475,000 for FY 1994 for five "full time equivalents" for planning and collections identification. Thus, the authorization for FY 1994 could be reduced.

In closing, in expressing the Smithsonian's appreciation for the subcommittee's support for this important initiative, which will assist significantly in meeting Institutional objectives, I would also acknowledge concern about initiatives of recent years that have created substantial budgetary requirements for the Smithsonian. Our planning document, Choosing the Future, outlines many of these requirements. The Institution will have to carefully examine the additional budgetary requirements of any new initiatives in conjunction with the needs of ongoing programs. The Institution plans to work even more closely with the subcommittee and the Administration in making decisions about the future requirements within the constraints of our national budget.

TESTIMONY
BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

THE HONORABLE JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.
CHAIRMAN

MARCH 25, 1993

John E. Fleming, Ph.D.
President, African American Museums Association
Director, National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center
Wilberforce, Ohio

The Honorable James A. Traficant, Jr. and members of the Subcommittee on Public Buildings and Grounds, I am John E. Fleming, President of the African American Museums Association and Director of the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center (Ohio Historical Society), Wilberforce, Ohio. I am pleased to present the views of the African American Museums Association on H.R. 877, a bill to authorize the establishment of the National African American Museum within the Smithsonian Institution.

As the professional organization of the African American Museum community, we support the creation of a National African American Museum. On September 15, 1992, I offered testimony on behalf of the AAMA on a similar bill, H.R. 1246, again to establish a National African American Museum within the Smithsonian Institution. I would like to summarize for the record the points made in that testimony.

We endorsed the following elements of that bill:

1. The establishment of an independent Board of Trustees for the National African American Museum within the structure of the Smithsonian Institution with AAMA members and representatives of other African American cultural institutions and organizations forming a majority on that Board.

2. The designating and setting aside of space on the mall for the construction of a new museum dedicated to African American history and culture. However the AAMA accepted the rationale for the temporary use of the Arts and Industries Building until such time as a new facility could be constructed.

3. The establishment of a set-aside fund within the budget of the new museum, to provide direct funding of existing African American museums nationwide.

While not part of H.R. 1246, we also sought support for and refered to Congressman Louis Stokes' bill (H.R. 1960) to establish a Training Center for African-American Museum Professionals at Wilberforce, Ohio. Having carefully thought through these recommendations over the past six months, we reaffirm our position. I would now like to raise several points for your consideration as you deliberate on the merits of H.R. 877.

We believe that the majority of the National Museum's staff should be African Americans. Having said this raises the serious issue of where these professionals are to be found. While the Smithsonian constituent Institutions have made some progress recently in recruiting and training professionals, this advance will be jeopardized if their staffs are raided to fill positions in the new museum. Likewise, the larger African American museums across the nation have invested major resources in training administrators, curators, registrars and museum educators, and would be significantly disadvantaged if these employees leave their institutions. With so few trained professionals in the field, some of our largest museums in California, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Alabama are currently competing to hire new museum directors.

The vital importance of cultural diversity, endorsed by the American Association of Museums, has created a demand by the nation's 10,000 museums for black professionals, who represent one half of one percent of the nation's 90,000 museum professionals. Therefore, we strongly endorsed the establishment of the National Training Center for minority museum archives and historic preservation professionals and ask that you not only support the bill to establish the training center but you also reference in H.R. 877 the critical need to collaborate on training minorities for the field.

Each year, millions of school children and tourists visit our nation's capitol and its museums. It is important that these individuals understand that African Americans played a central role in the development of this nation. The establishment of an African American Museum in the Arts and Industries Building would provide an immediate presence within the Smithsonian. However, the AAMA urges that you consider and designate space for the development of a new African American Museum on the Mall. This will send a clear message to our citizens that our national government does not view its largest minority as second class citizens. We ask that you follow the example of California and Ohio and cities such as Detroit, Philadelphia, Dallas and Birmingham in committing resources for a new facility.

The AAMA is unwilling to give up completely our patrimony and the interpretation of our history and culture to an institution whose overall track record of cultural inclusion is questionable at best. While Secretary Robert Adams has brought cultural sensitivity to the Smithsonian, which we applaud, we believe that the museum's board should have the independence to promote an interpretive program that accurately reflects the African American heritage. The AAMA believes that it is imperative to include representatives from our African American museums and other cultural institutions as a majority on the National Museum's Board of Trustees.

Throughout the history of the African American Museums Association, we have been asked to endorse and support the authorization or reauthorization of such cultural agencies as the National Endowments for the Humanities and Arts and the Institute for Museum Services. While we have given our unconditional support, these agencies have a dismal record in providing financial support for African American Museums. Once again, we find ourselves before a Congressional Committee whose actions could result in the allocation of millions of federal dollars. From our perspective, African American Museums are being asked to support legislation which will involve the transfer of millions of dollars to an institution that has reluctantly

accepted a mission which our institutions have traditionally carried virtually unassisted by federal support.

Therefore, the AAMA views H.R. 877 as a unique opportunity for the federal government not only to create a new institution within the Smithsonian, but also to provide greatly needed federal support for our other African American museums which have remained true to their mission as keepers of culture, however isolated from mainstream American institutions of cultural preservation.

Thus, within the conditions I have outlined above, the AAMA endorses H.R. 877.

STATEMENT OF

TOM MACK, CHAIRMAN,

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

AT A HEARING BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION

MARCH 26, 1993

Mister Chairman, on behalf of the National Council for Education and Economic Development, Inc. (NCEED), the National Urban League and a number of other diverse and wide ranging constituencies, it is a privilege and an honor to testify before you and your Subcommittee in support of a bill to authorize the establishment of the National African American Heritage Museum primarily controlled by African Americans, but including other ethnic groups, on the National Mall in Washington, DC.

We wish to thank you and your Subcommittee for your leadership in this matter. We also wish to thank the Honorable John Lewis for his experience, leadership and support, as well as our late board member the Honorable Mickey Leland for his inspiration and guidance.

We would like to express our appreciation to our Honorary Chairwoman, Miss Lena Horne, our outstanding Board of Directors, and former Director, Barbara Washington Franklin, Esq.

Mr. Chairman, on September 15, 1992, we were privileged to participate in hearings before the Subcommittee on Public Buildings and Grounds on H.R. 1246, to establish an African American Museum. The Bill unanimously passed both the Subcommittee and the full Committee on Public Works and Transportation. Chairman Robert A. Roe issued a press release extolling the virtues of H.R. 1246. Subcommittee Chairman Gus Savage wrote a letter to the Black Caucus in support of the Bill and the Black Caucus passed a Resolution as follows: "We support and urge

passage, on suspension of H.R. 1246 as approved by the House Public Works Committee on September 24, 1992." Unfortunately, the Black Caucus Resolution urging passage of H.R. 1246 was denied.

With reference to the question whether the African American Museum should be a new or old building, we were encouraged to note that Reginald Griffith, Executive Director of the Capital Planning Commission stated for the record, in a memo of September 22, 1992 to the Subcommittee Chairman that "...it is definitely my opinion that a new structure is far superior to the renovation of an existing structure..."

We respectfully suggest that this Subcommittee shares an awesome role and responsibility in helping to determine the quality of the structure for the African American Museum and who rightfully should control it. The answer to these important questions shall inevitably send a message to the country and the world about the attitude of Congress about African Americans.

H.R. 877 calls for Smithsonian (SI) control of the African American Museum. Elsewhere in my testimony we point out that SI has relinquished its right of control for nearly a century-and-a-half through intentional neglect of African American history. It cannot reclaim that responsibility simply by saying, trust us we are now ready to properly serve.

African Americans have earned the right to control their own destiny. Undeniably, African and African Americans have made enormous contributions to the socio-economic development of this country, notwithstanding the uncivilized and inhuman treatment inflicted upon this ethnic group. There never will be a better time than now and there will never be a more appropriate way by which African Americans can show the proper respect for their ancestors, than through this history museum effort.

In addition to being the only ones who have earned the right to control their history, African Americans are now ready, willing and able to assume a responsibility to their ancestors which no one else can legitimately exercise. The qualities of pride, dignity, self-respect, confidence and self-reliance must be reinforced within the African American ethnic group in order to save itself and position itself to make an even mightier contribution to the advancement of the United States. Even casual review of the pertinent circumstances will lead right-thinking individuals to the conclusion that the African American Museum must be controlled by the descendants of slaves and not by the descendants of slave-owners. We respectfully urge your serious consideration and support of this position.

In previous testimony we reported a brief summary of the present effort to bring the African American Museum to reality for the American public and the world. That history follows.

This current Museum effort began with us in December of 1984 as an idea in search of realization. On February 4, 1985, NCEED became legally established in the District of Columbia as a non-profit educational institution. Our board of directors and staff are comprised of distinguished Americans who desire to improve through education, a great country. Our mission is to bring into focus the scattered history of African Americans which has been so poorly represented on the mall.

We are indebted to our illustrious advisory committee and NCEED members and supporters, as well as men and women of the religious and corporate communities and, the athletic and entertainment industries who share our objectives. We are particularly grateful to the educators who enthusiastically endorsed our efforts and pledged academic support to help bring this educational resource to the Nation.

The two most important prerequisites for an African American Heritage Museum are African American control and a new world-class museum as a repository for this precious but sorrowfully neglected history.

Mr. Chairman, we are pleased to testify before you that the foregoing in particular represent the views of a wide ranging constituency. The National Urban League with its 113 chapters around the country has since January 1985, supported the African American Heritage Museum program.

Dr. Dorothy Height, Chairperson, National Council of Negro Women has on numerous occasions expressed support for the principles we are espousing herein.

On October 3, 1990, the United Negro College Fund Board of Directors expressed support of the African American Museum.

Finally, but most importantly we were afforded an opportunity to present our views on the African American Heritage Museum on September 27, 1990 to the Black Leadership Forum. The Forum as listed below is comprised of sixteen of the Nation's most prestigious civil rights organizations with very wide ranging constituencies across the Nation.

National Urban League, Inc.
The King's Center
NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.
Operation PUSH, Inc.
National Urban Coalition
R. Gordon Hatcher Associates
National Council of Negro Women, Inc.
A. Philip Randolph Institute
NAACP
Industrialization Centers of America, Inc.
SCLC
Coalition of Black Trade Unionists
Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies

National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials
National Pan-Hellenic Council
National Conference of Black Mayors

The Forum passed a Resolution of support for the African American Heritage Museum, and during discussion was unequivocal on the issues of African American control and a new modern museum of the highest quality.

Mister Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, African American history is an amazing and unique story of triumph over tremendous odds. Our history of achievements and sacrifice must be researched, documented, codified and exhibited to help everyone to understand it. This is especially true of the children of our country. Pride, self-respect, dignity, confidence, good human relations, and a determination to succeed are at stake.

The people of the United States and today's African Americans in particular owe an enormous debt to our ancestors whose sacrifices enriched our lives. Now it is our turn to help improve the Nation our children will inherit.

Mr. Chairman I am aware that this is the Subcommittee on Public Buildings and Grounds and that part of your focus is on the Arts and Industries Building which is owned by the citizens of this country and currently, through the will of Congress is under the management of the

Smithsonian Institution.

Recently the Smithsonian's Board of Regents approved using the Arts and Industries building (which is the second oldest building on the Mall - 115 years) for the African American Museum. Their press release indicated that there was thirty three thousand square feet of space for the Museum. By far this space is inadequate. one thing, however seems clear. The Smithsonian leadership which had disgracefully neglected African American history for at least one hundred and forty years, is now doing the wrong thing to correct its previous neglect.

This position is not surprising given the attitude of the Secretary. As late as last September 21, 1989, testifying before the Subcommittee on Libraries and Memorials Smithsonian Secretary Robert McCormick spoke of "...a planning session in Washington.....to help the Smithsonian to focus on African American activities overall, including Anacostia and the possibility of an African American presence on the Mall...".

Further, "As discussion about an African American museum proceeds you also may wish to consider the possibility that adding a wing to the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History might be an alternative to a free-standing entity."

This sad state of mind and lack of sensitivity for the feelings and real needs of African Americans combined with the 142 years of discriminatory behavior by Smithsonian against minorities revealed by

Congresswoman Cardiss Collins Subcommittee on Government Activities on Transportation March and April 1989 should leave no doubt in anyone's mind that Smithsonian is incapable of leadership control of an African American Heritage Museum.

A new world-class African American Heritage Museum can and should be built either on the West Mall or the East Mall. And considering the importance of this African American history, it is all but unthinkable to place the responsibility for the planning and control for the African American Museum in the hands of anyone except the broadest range of African American representation such as the members of the Black Leadership Forum and others including the Smithsonian.

We can provide a sounder foundation for education and life through making the world aware of our heritage. We need funds to begin our research with museum professionals, planners, architects, engineers, various craftsmen, scholars, businessmen and individuals from every walk of life to formalize a search, if allowed, through personal collections, artifacts throughout the world, and make purchases of pertinent memorabilia. Finally, exhibits that do not exist must be recreated for exhibition in the commemorative structure.

Education is the cornerstone that provides the tools with which to build and advance civilization. Economics are the determinants of both the quality of life and the security of people. Similarly, cultural roots are the foundation of the individual, the family, the society.

It is well known that the institution of slavery existed in numerous cultures. The museum-institute will search out the misplaced, neglected and ignored history by collecting and recording historical materials wherever they may exist. States within the United States, as well as African, English, Dutch, Italian, French, Spanish, Caribbean and South American countries, will be invited to provide significant comments, documents and memorabilia relating to every aspect of slavery. This will include African participation in the slave trade and African-American ownership of slaves. This kind of intensive research will provide the foundation for greater insight into the effect slavery has had on individuals, families, institutions and the American heritage.

A center for genealogical studies of families and kinship lineage and memorabilia will offer a valuable resource and repository. Before the next century begins - in just seven years, computer technology may enable us to take advantage of museum facilities without leaving home. The African American Museum must be in operational service for this country before the twenty first century begins.

The purpose of this memorial museum is to show positively constructive results. From this viewpoint we will present the example of the many who have flowered and flourished. Even in the face of adversity, some heroic figures came to prominence, through inventive genius, through artistic creativity and through intellectual achievement. Studies of those personages have much to convey to this and future generations.

From these shining examples of achievements in education, science, medicine, religion, entertainment, sports, Law - virtually every field of endeavor - there are African-American role models. these can be outstanding models through which to teach self-sufficiency, hard work, achievement, pride, determination and self-respect. One of the most important aspects of this museum would be to teach African-Americans about the miracle of their heritage and its survival in spite of the still existing shackles of an unfortunate aspect of American history. In addition to inspiring and enriching the lives of African-Americans, this living museum will do the same for other minorities, all Americans, and those of other countries who are linked to this history.

History is instructive for the present and the future. It has been well stated that a people or society which ignores the mistakes of its past is doomed to repeat them. We must not let this happen. There are reasons for optimism, and we must take further corrective action to broaden the base of progress. The doors of opportunity will be opened wider for those willing to prepare themselves to advance through them. This is our destiny.

Today is the time to conquer the elusive goal of successful human relationship at all levels in the United States and to awaken to its fullest extent the inherent humanity in ourselves and our Nation.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, we feel that the success of this endeavor will be measured by the constantly improving

relationships between the various ethnic groups of the United States of America and the resulting strength of our unbreakable unity. History will record our efforts. And the results.

We thank you for this opportunity to testify before you and to seek your urgent support to get this museum built just as quickly as possible.

Attachments: Previous statement by John Jacob, President and Chief Executive Officer, Urban League; Congressional Black Caucus Resolution and letter from Congressman Gus Savage to The Honorable Ed Towns.

Congressional Black Caucus

U.S. House of Representatives
H2-344 House Annex #2 — The Ford Building
Washington, D.C. 20515 (202) 226-7790

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: 10/02/92

Today, the Congressional Black Caucus passed the following resolution:

RESOLUTION: WE SUPPORT AND URGE PASSAGE, ON SUSPENSION, OF H.R. 1246 AS APPROVED BY THE HOUSE ~~PUBLIC~~ WORKS COMMITTEE ON SEPTEMBER 24, 1992.

The Hon. Edolphus Towns
Chairman
Congressional Black Caucus

NOTE: from HON. GUS SAVAGE, Chairman, House Subcommittee on Public Buildings and Grounds

H.R. 1246 establishes and authorizes construction of a national museum for African American culture and history, on or near the Mall in Washington, D.C., as has been authorized in recently enacted laws to construct an American Indian museum and a Holocaust museum.

HON. GUS SAVAGE
2d DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE
PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

MEMBER COMMITTEES
SMALL BUSINESS
PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION

MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEES
AVIATION
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
SBA, GENERAL ECONOMY AND MINORITY ENTERPRISE

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House of Representatives
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JAMES HARRIS
DISTRICT DIRECTOR
PAUL JAKES
ADMINISTRATOR

October 1, 1992

The Hon. Ed Towns
Chairman
Congressional Black Caucus
1726 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

You agreed in a phone conversation, yesterday, to convene an emergency meeting of the Congressional Black Caucus today for the purpose of informing and mobilizing its members to secure House action (by suspension of the rules) on H.R. 1246 as unanimously passed by the House Committee on Public Works and Transportation. However, I have received no notice from you that such a meeting has been scheduled, and it is noon today.

As you know, H.R. 1246, sponsored by Rep. John Lewis, is a bill to establish a national museum of African American life and history on or near the Mall in Washington, D.C., the traditional place for such national museums and other major activities of the Smithsonian Institution. The Public Works Committee version, also sponsored by Rep. Lewis, is to be preferred over a Senate version, sponsored by Senator Paul Simon, and an earlier version, awaiting action by the House Committee on Administration. There are three major improvements, sponsored by Lewis, in the Public Works version as compared to the other two versions:

✓ 1) It authorizes a new, architecturally significant building, of approximately 400,000 square feet, with off-street parking and landscaped grounds; comparable to the new buildings and grounds authorized for the planned American Indian Museum (377,000 occupiable square feet) and the Jewish Holocaust Museum (225,000 occupiable square feet) on or near the Mall -- while the other versions authorize housing the African American Museum in the 114-year-old, architecturally underwhelming, relatively small (173,000 square feet) Arts and Industries building (with no parking or grounds for landscaping) of the Smithsonian Institution, at 9th and Independence.

✓ 2) It provides for concerned and qualified African American domination of the museum's board of trustees, by providing that, of the 23 voting members, 18 be appointed by the President on the recommendation of established and relevant African American organizations ("independent African American museums . . . Historically Black Universities . . . National Newspaper Publishers Association . . . National Bar Association . . .

-more-

Association for the Study of African Art, Life and History . . . National Council for Education and Economic Development . . . [and] chief executive officers of major businesses owned and controlled by African Americans") -- while the other two versions authorize the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution (accused of documented racism by two Congressional subcommittees) to appoint the museum's board, without even requiring an African American majority; although American Indian and Jewish majorities are required in law for the other two planned, new museums.

3) It requires financial and other specific aid for existing African American museums, for they would otherwise be negatively impacted by the unavoidable competition of the overwhelmingly stronger and federally financed National Museum -- while the other two versions authorize little if any such direct assistance.

Lewis' Public Works version is ready for floor action, as is the Senate version. With immediate and strong Congressional Black Caucus backing, the Public Works version could conceivably pass in the House, in time to pressure Senator Simon to pass his version in the Senate and reconcile the two by next Tuesday, for the President to sign into law. This is legislation of monumental significance to African Americans in particular, and all Americans in general.

Again, I urge you to act promptly and positively to my request. Otherwise, history may record a disgraceful dereliction of African American Congressional leadership.

It has been argued (even by a Member or two of the Congressional Black Caucus and a few respected Black leaders) that appropriations for this measure cannot reasonably be expected; so why try? There are three clear answers to this specious and strange argument:

1) As is regular procedure in Congress, the American Indian Museum has been merely "authorized" for "appropriations;" moreover, no "authorization" is ever assured of "appropriations," so why make H.R. 1246 an exception?

2) If that argument is proved valid, in time; then supporters of H.R. 1246 need merely revert by amendment to the weaker version, losing nothing for the effort.

3) Furthermore, that argument may be based unconscionably on the racist-imposed lack of self-confidence that rationalizes, "A half loaf is better than none," "You got to crawl before you walk," "Guess how much white folks are going to give you and only ask for that amount in order not to pressure them." However, the great Frederick Douglass warned 135 years ago, the limits of tyrants are proscribed only by the endurance of the oppressed; "If there is no struggle, there is no progress . . . power concedes nothing without a demand."

Sincerely,

Gus Savage

Gus Savage, M.C.

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TESTIMONY FOR THE RECORD BY
JOHN E. JACOB
PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE, INC.

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, I am greatly pleased to submit testimony for the record in support of passage and implementation of H.R. 1570. A properly functioning African American Heritage Museum can help to make an immense contribution to knowledge, understanding and equal opportunity for all Americans. Mr. Chairman, you and the members of this subcommittee are in a unique position to facilitate this legislative process thereby surrounding this project with the attitude of urgency which it deserves.

We would like to express our appreciation to Tom Mack, Founder and Chairman of the National Council for Education and Economic Development and the Board of Directors of NCEED for their steadfast work on this museum endeavor.

We thank Congressman John Lewis for introducing H.R. 1570. We note with satisfaction that Mr. Lewis continues to be vigilant in matters relating to education and equal opportunity.

We are gratified when a Bill has the unanimous support of the Black Caucus. Such an opportunity for unified leadership is available in H.R. 1570. We encourage all Members of the United States House of Representatives to work diligently to enact this measure which is of great importance to all Americans.

On February 26, 1985, I met with Mr. Mack and the late Robert Braswell in New york as Mr. Mack introduced me to his concept of an African American Heritage Museum on the Mall in Washington, D.C. We immediately expressed our support for this endeavor. I also pledged during the legislative process to help to bring this educational instrument to reality. We are now prepared to act on that pledge.

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